

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A coin hopper comprised of:

a storing bowl for storing coins in bulk within an interior wall surface which includes a movable wall section for selectively extending radially outward to increase an interior
5 volume of the storing bowl for holding additional coins in the storing bowl when in a coin storing position mode;

a rotating coin selector disk is operatively connected to the storing bowl;

the movable wall section provides the operative coin storing position mode and a coin release position mode,

10 the movable wall section includes a bottom wall for supporting coins, a pair of parallel side walls and a periphery wall extending between the parallel side walls and the bottom wall;

the coins contacting the movable wall section slide away from the rotating coin selection disk in the coin storing position mode, however, coins slide towards the rotating coin
15 selector disk in the coin release position mode, wherein the total interior volume is made smaller in the coin release position mode.

2. (Previously Presented) The coin hopper of Claim 1, wherein the movable wall section is located adjacent the rotating coin selector disk.

3. (Previously Presented) The coin hopper of Claim 2, wherein the movable wall
20 section forms a portion of a perimeter wall of the storing bowl.

4. (Previously Presented) A coin hopper comprised of:

a storing bowl for storing coins in bulk and includes a wall section that slants downward to enable a gravity feed of coins;

a rotating coin selector disk which is located adjacent a bottom of the storing bowl
5 for selectively releasing coins;

a movable wall section is connected to and forms an extension of the wall section of the storing bowl to provide one of a coin storing position by increasing a volume of the storing bowl and a coin release position by decreasing a volume of the storing bowl, the coins contacting the movable wall section slide away from the rotating coin selector disk in the coin storing
10 position, however, the coins slide towards the rotating coin selector disk in the coin release position;

a coin amount detecting unit which detects a predetermined amount of coins above the rotating coin selector disk and outputs a refilling signal upon detecting the predetermined amount of coins; and

15 an actuator unit which operates the movable wall section to move from the coin storing position to the coin release position and reduces an interior coin storage volume of the coin hopper based on the refilling signal.

5. (Original) The coin hopper of Claim 4, wherein the rotating coin selector disk is driven by an electric motor,

20 when the electric motor rotates in a first direction, the rotating coin selector disk selectively releases coins and when the motor rotates in a second counter direction, the actuator

unit is driven and the moving wall section moves from the coin storing position to the coin release position.

6. (Previously Presented) In a coin dispensing apparatus for providing stored coins to a coin selector unit for dispensing coins, the improvement comprising:

5 a storage member for storing coins;

 a movable member is pivotably connected to a wall of the storage member for selectively increasing the coin storage volume of the storage member when the movable member is extended in a first direction to receive coins in an extended storage volume and releasing the stored coins in a contracted storage volume when the movable member is contracted in a second

10 direction to enable coins to be released to the coin selection unit, coins contacting the movable member slide away from the coin selection unit in the first direction.

7. (Original) The coin dispensing apparatus of Claim 6 further including an actuator unit for driving the movable member from a coin storage position to a coin release position.

8. (Cancelled)

15 9. (Previously Presented) The coin dispensing apparatus of Claim 7 wherein the actuator unit includes a screw jack member that can linearly extend and contract.

10. (Previously Presented) The coin dispensing apparatus of Claim 7 where the actuator unit is a spring member.

11. (Previously Presented) The coin dispensing apparatus of Claim 7 further including a detector unit for monitoring the amount of coins in the storage member to activate the actuator unit.

12. (Original) The coin dispensing apparatus of Claim 6 wherein the movable member is a wedge-shaped bucket member.

13. (Currently Amended) A storage member for a coin dispensing apparatus to store coins and dispense coins, comprising:

a housing member having a cavity for storing coins when mounted in a coin dispensing apparatus; [[and]]

10 a movable member pivotably connected to a wall of the cavity of the housing member for increasing and decreasing the storage volume available for coins in the housing member, the coins contacting the movable member slide away from a coin dispensing location when the storage volume is increased; and

15 an actuator unit for driving the movable member from a coin storage position to a coin release position.

14. - 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The storage member of Claim [[14]] 13 wherein the actuator unit includes a screw jack member that can linearly extend and contract.

17. (Currently Amended) The storage member of Claim [[14]] 13 where the actuator unit is a spring member.

18. (Previously Presented) The storage member of Claim 13 further including a detector unit for monitoring the amount of coins in the storage member to activate the actuator unit.

19. (Original) The storage member of Claim 13 wherein the movable member is a wedge-shaped bucket member.

20. (Previously Presented) The coin hopper of Claim 1 wherein the movable wall section has a bucket configuration.

21.-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The coin hopper of Claim 2 wherein the movable wall section is pivotally mounted as a portion of the storing bowl, with the pivoting axis being at a closest portion of the movable wall section to the rotating coin selector disk.

24. (Previously Presented) A coin hopper comprising:
a storing bowl for storing coins in bulk including an interior wall section that slants downward and toward a rotating coin selection disk to gravity feed the coins, the rotating coin selection disk is located adjacent a bottom of the storing bowl for selectively releasing coins;

a moving wall section includes a movable member which is pivotably connected to the interior wall section of the storing bowl to provide both a coin storing position and a coin release position, one end of the movable member is pivotably connected to the interior wall section and a far end of the movable member can move to a lower position than the pivoted

connection, the coins contacting the moving wall section slide away from the rotating coin selector disk in the coin storing position, however, coins slide towards the rotating coin selection disk in the coin release position;

5 a coin amount detecting unit which detects a predetermined amount of coins above the rotating coin selector disk and outputs a refilling signal upon detecting the predetermined amount of coins; and

an actuator unit which operates the moving wall section to move from the coin storing position to the coin release position based on the refilling signal.

25. (Previously Presented) A coin hopper comprising:

10 a storing bowl for storing coins in bulk within an interior wall surface which includes a movable wall section for selectively extending radially outward to increase an interior volume of the storing bowl for holding additional coins in the storing bowl when in a coin storing position mode;

a rotating coin selector disk is operatively connected to the storing bowl;

15 the movable wall section provides the operative coin storing position mode and a coin release position mode, the movable wall section is elastic and extends around the rotatable coin selector disk; and

means for inflating and deflating the movable wall section to decrease and increase the interior volume of the storing bowl, wherein the coins contacting the movable wall
20 section slide away from the rotating coin selector disk in the coin storing position mode, however, coins slide towards the rotating coin selector disk in the coin release position mode, wherein the total interior volume is made smaller in the coin release position mode.